

Senate Council  
March 26, 2018

Borrowed Courses  
*(applies to required courses and program elective courses)*

Currently, the Senate's program-related forms require faculty to submit proof of permission for ANY use of a borrowed course, regardless of how many students may take the course. While this current standard (below) has helped promote better collaboration among educational units, there have been instances where this requirement has hindered units' ability to make their programs more flexible for students. The Senate Council office respectfully requests that the SC approve the proposed standard (below) regarding borrowed courses.

An example of the decreased flexibility caused by the current standard on borrowed courses is an active proposal pending in the Senate Council office. The unit faculty intend to change their BA/BS, specifically to update the prefixes that are deemed automatically acceptable as fulfilling the electives requirement. The program currently requires students to take 15 credit hours of electives from any prefix in seven specific departments (16 prefixes). The proposed change involves switching from a list of department names to a list of prefixes and the proposer seeks to add an additional 18 prefixes from which students can choose. Under the current standard, the proposer must solicit a letter of support from each of the 18 units offering the courses that a student might take.

In the past, a workaround for this has been that units offer a representative list on the Senate form, but then indicate that a complete list is available in the DUS's office. That alternative is still feasible, but requires the DUS to process substitutions for every course prefix not on the list on the form approved by Senate and codified in myGPS.

After discussions that included Margaret Schroeder (chair, Senate's Academic Programs Committee) and Amy Spriggs (chair, Undergraduate Council), the Senate Council office would like the SC to modify the requirement that *every* borrowed course be approved by the offering unit.

**Current Standard:**

Any use of courses from outside the department must be approved by the faculty of the offering unit.

**Proposed Standard:**

If a student must take a specific course, or must take a course (or courses) from a list of five or fewer courses, there must be evidence that every offering unit has granted permission for its course(s) to be used.

If a student is allowed to (1) choose any course with a specific prefix (with or without a restriction on which hundred series the course must be in) or (2) choose from a list of six or more courses (regardless of prefix), no permission is required.